

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on November 6, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 1, and amended claims 2, and 5-9. In particular, claims 2 and 8 have been amended into independent form, and the remaining amended claims have been amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 1 to allowable claim 2. Claims 2 and 8 are the independent claims, and claims 2-10 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Initially, it is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of original claims 2-4 and 8 as being allowable over the art of record. As noted above, claims 2 and 8 have been amended into independent form, thus placing these claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Moreover, since claim 1 has been canceled, all of the Examiner's prior art rejections have been rendered moot. It is thus submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance. Such action, and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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RHB/vm